



AF/ 3679

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP NUMBER 3679

IN THE PATENT AND-TM OFFICE

Appn. Number: 09/516,655

Filing Date: 03/01/00

Applicant: Thompson, Thomas C.

Appn. Title: Retrofit Hurricane-Earthquake Clip

Examiner: Garcia, Ernesto

12/Amtd (L2C)
CP
2-21-03

RECEIVED

FEB 19 2003

GROUP 3600

Mailed February 5, 2003

AMENDMENT D

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed 12/05/02, I have included in this response the following:

1. Response to objected drawings.
2. Response to objected specification.
3. Response to Claim objections.
4. Response to claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.
5. Response to claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102.
6. Copy of amended claims.
7. Clean copy of amended claims.
8. Certificate of Mailing.

Very respectfully,

Thomas C. Thompson
Thomas C. Thompson

Entered per Act
Not entered
2/25/03

Response:

1. **The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference signs not mentioned in the description: 34A and 35A in Figure 5. A proposed drawing or specification correction is required.** The applicant's specification, on page 21, paragraphs 1 and 2, describe how the strengthening tabs 32 and 33 are bent on top of each other from the flat pattern layout, Figure 5. The applicant's Reference Numerals in Drawings, page 13 does not list these bends (34A and 35A). The applicant respectfully requests that the examiner add the following to page 13:

“34A. Left strengthening bend

35A. Right strengthening bend”

The specification now lists 34A and 35A to match the drawings, without adding new material.

2. **The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature...therefore, the acute angled bends (claims 1 and 5), the acute angles (claims 3 and 4) must be shown or the features canceled from the claims.** In the last two paragraphs on page 15 of the specification, the applicant refers to the first and second horizontal bends 9 and 12 as being “shallow” bends. The applicant respectfully submits that shallow bends are acute bends, being less than 90°. The applicant's Figure 4 shows a flat pattern layout of the typhoon clip 1, shown in applicant's Figure 2. Referring now to applicant's Figure 2, the lower section of the typhoon clip 1, the base web 14, is in the original plane of the flat pattern layout. In other words, the base web 14 has not been bent from the original flat pattern layout. Proceeding up the base web 14, the second horizontal bend 12 bends the offset web 13 at an acute (shallow) angle from the vertical, or original flat pattern layout. Proceeding up the offset web 13, the left blocking web 3 is bent from the offset web 13 at an acute angle at the first horizontal bend 9. The problem is probably in the reference numbering which the applicant did from top to bottom, which makes the second formed-horizontal bend first. All of the bend angles are 90° or less, as obtuse bending of the metal would probably stretch and weaken the metal. When the tool and die forms the typhoon clip 1 from the flat pattern layout, there is no obtuse bending of angles or material. Therefore, acute angles are shown on Figure 2, and the drawings are correct.